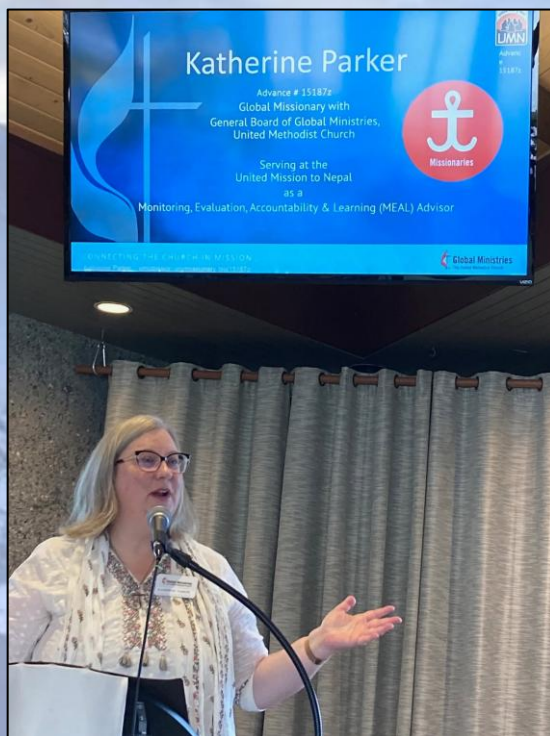




Missionary Katherine Parker joined us for worship on August 16. Her sermon '*Healing and Joy on our Journey to God*' talked about her work in Nepal. A recording of the service is available [here](#). For more information about our covenant relationship with Katherine, see page 5.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*"Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal;
but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own."*

Philippians 3:12 NRSVUE

Greetings Church Family,

Over the last few weeks in our "Lessons in Leadership" series, Jesus has been helping us build a strong community. In the book of Matthew, He asked His friends a big question: "Who do you say that I am?" When Peter got the answer right, Jesus said that He would build His church on that rock of faith. But Jesus also taught us that true leadership isn't about power or showing off. It's about love, forgiveness, and looking out for each other. Jesus even told Peter to forgive people not just a few times, but seventy-seven times!

Next, we'll be pressing on to a brand-new series called "Pressing On," based on the book of Philippians. The writer, Paul, is actually sitting in a prison cell when he writes this letter, yet it's full of joy! He compares faith to running a big race. Paul knew he wasn't perfect, and he knew all about his past mistakes. But instead of looking backward, Paul kept his eyes on the finish line



And that's good news for us. Because none of us have it all figured out. Whether you've known God for years, or are just stepping into a church for the first time, we're all a work in progress. But we don't have to be weighed down by yesterday's mistakes.

So how do we do this in everyday life? It starts when we choose kindness over arguments, when we forgive someone who's hurt us, and when we forgive ourselves. We keep moving forward, not because we're strong enough on our own, but because God holds us every step of the way.

Lace up your sneakers, church family. Leave the past behind, take a deep breath, and let's press on together!

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13 NRSVUE

Grace and Peace be with you all,
Pastor Gabe



On July 12, cousins Theodore Zakaria McGuire-Abbas and Oakley Ann Nelson were baptized.

Small Group Meetings

Small Groups are open to anyone. If you have questions about any of the groups, please contact Pastor Gabe.

- **Blaney Group** - Sunday at 11:15 AM in the Youth Room
- **PACT** - every other Monday at 10 AM (*September 7 & 21*)
<https://zoom.us/j/97895982359?pwd=dURlM09lZXI4V2pLN3ByZkxwT1pHQ09>
Meeting ID 978 9598 2359 Passcode 813515
- **Alive Now** - Tuesday at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall
- **Upper Room** - Tuesday at 7 PM (Study book is *The Upper Room Disciples*)
<https://zoom.us/j/94925380499?pwd=OGNpaHc4VmZ2OFhicZVML2M2ME5Ddz09>
Meeting ID 974 1046 9403 Passcode 935450
- **Scott Group** - Friday at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall

What is PACT?

PACT stands for **P**astoral **A**ssistive **C**are **T**eam. It's composed of a group of caring people who meet by Zoom every other Monday at 10 AM to pray for every person in our church and discern if anyone needs care. If you know of someone facing surgery or who has a health issue, please let Laurel know and we can determine the best way to support them. Sometimes a visit to the hospital is needed, sometimes a card. If no one is aware of a person's needs, neither Pastor Gabe nor anyone else can support this person in prayer or caring action. PACT can always use more people! Call Laurel at 831-477-7550 or contact the [office](#) if you would like to be a member of this important church ministry.

~ In Our Thoughts and Prayers ~

The family and friends of Marcia Burns on her death on August 20. Condolences may be sent to:

Dottie and John Lechtenberg
275 W. Phillips
Watsonville CA 95076



You are invited to join our Prayer Team.

The Prayer Team receives a weekly email with prayer requests. To join the Prayer Team or submit a prayer request, please contact the church office.

Equal Exchange Coffee and Chocolate

Every first Sunday of the month, Laurel offers coffee and chocolate from Equal Exchange for sale in the Fellowship Hall.



September 16 *Antique* by Seth Panitch

The Book Club meets at 1:30 PM on the third Wednesday of every month in the Youth Room. Anyone is welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Barbara Coy-Bulicz at 689-9772 or bcoybulicz@gmail.com.

Fall 2026 Earth Connect Retreat

The Fall 2026 Earth Connect Retreat is being held on Saturday, **September 12 from 9 AM to 3 PM at Willow Glen UMC in San Jose**. Organized by our conference [Climate Justice Ministries Task Force](#) and open to everyone, this day of contemplation in nature, reflective time in small groups, worship, and fellowship seeks to help participants become more spiritually grounded and connected to our common call to care for the Earth and for its fragile inhabitants.

Registration is required online at climate-cnumc.org/events/earth-connect-retreat-fall-2026/.

Come and join with like-minded folk from around the South Bay Area and beyond, and fill your soul so that you can participate in the work of healing the world.

“We need so much less than we take. We owe so much more than we give.” – from Andrea Gibson’s poem *Homesick: A Plea for Our Planet*.

A vegetarian lunch will be provided. Sorry, childcare is not available. \$20 suggested donation (but no one will be turned away).

Missions

Aptos United Methodist Church continues to offer space to Village Santa Cruz, an organization that helps seniors age in place, stay socially connected, and receive help with short-term projects as needed. The Aptos subgroup of the Village meets at our church on the first Wednesday of the month at 1 PM. The next meeting will be September 2. You are welcome to attend if interested.

Church and Society

The General Board of Church and Society is dedicated to the work of living faith, seeking justice, and pursuing peace. The board is called to seek the implementation of the Social Principles and other policy statements of the General Conference on Christian social concerns - to fulfill the mandate of:

- relating the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Church, communities, and the world in which they live
- bringing the whole of human life into conformity with the will of God
- showing that reconciliation involves personal, social, and civic righteousness
- providing educational resources, sustaining relational connections, and mobilizing networks to engage in social advocacy and action

Addressing more than 30 social issues on which The United Methodist Church has claimed a position, Church and Society communicates with policymakers and leaders around the world with the mission of transforming the world.

Check out their new 2026 Resource Guide in the form of a virtual flipbook below:

[Resource Guide 2026](#)

This content was originally published by the General Board of Church and Society; republished with permission on ResourceUMC.org on February 12, 2026.



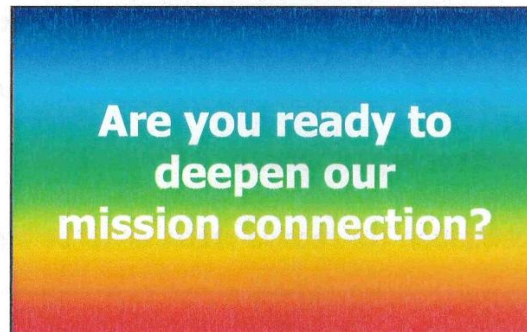
God calls us both individually and collectively to participate in the *Misero Dei*, the Mission of God. As the church we join the gospel call to make disciples of Jesus Christ, for the transformation of the world.



Covenant is Latin in origin and means "coming together." Covenants are common throughout scripture. The word translated as covenant from the Hebrew Scriptures adds the meaning "to bond or fetter." The Greek word in the New Testament is "binding together." A biblical covenant is a relationship based on mutual commitments, typically involving promises, obligations, and rituals.

Covenant Relationships build upon these already understood connectional relationships and provide an opportunity for a deeper, intentional, mutual, and sustained partnership with a commissioned missionary of the United Methodist Church

I am grateful for your faithful support and the honor of being sent by The United Methodist Church – by you – as a commissioned missionary. I think together we can grow our missional impact. When you **covenant with me**, you become one of my anchors in ministry as we follow God's calling into the world.



The average cost to support a commissioned UMC missionary for one year is **\$69,806**. Every gift given through my Advance number, and every covenant relationship works towards fully funding our shared mission.

Through our **covenant relationship** we will support one another through prayer and worship, journey in mission together through presence and service, and to bear witness to and share God's mighty works in mission. While your financial gifts support the sending of all the missionaries of the United Methodist Church, our covenant relationship and a pledge from you recognizes that the gifts are part of a special relationship that we share.

Covenant partnerships are the foundation for a missional relationship. It opens the door for additional opportunities to serve together. Covenant Partners are prioritized for in-person visits.

Aptos UMC has been in a covenant relationship with Katherine for over 10 years. We contribute \$1,000 annually, with funds being raised through Alternative Christmas and a special offering each February.



Trustees Report

The kitchen renovation is heading into the next phase. Remediation efforts have been completed, which took a little longer than anticipated. Drying out the walls, flooring, and studs took over a month of 24/7 dehumidifiers and fans. Due to the nature of the water damage the Church was required to complete mold and bacteria testing to ensure all surfaces were mold and bacteria free. This was completed over the last two weeks, and all tests have come back negative and the reporting information has been sent to the County licensing agents for the preschool to ensure that the building is safe for the children.

The Trustees await final figures and the contract for replacement of all flooring, carpeting, hardware, and cabinetry, and painting of the education room. The Trustees are hopeful that this will begin the week of August 24 and the rebuild will begin shortly afterwards. The construction team from JD Stager Construction out of San Jose will be handling all aspects of this rebuild. Trustees have developed a good working relationship already with JD Stager and look forward to a timely install.

An exact timeline for completion of the project is not clear, but estimates range from 6-8 weeks until we have a fully functioning education building, and Secret Garden has the kitchen, bathrooms, and playroom back in full working order. Trustees will update the Church on a monthly basis as to the timeline and completion schedule for this project.

Our insurance agency Guide One has been very cooperative and informative and we have had good communications on all project concerns and issues to date.

Many Thanks,
Your Trustees



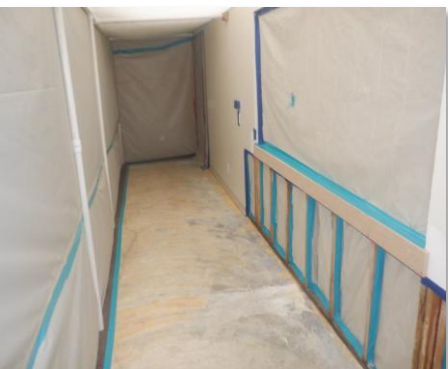
kitchen, looking towards counter



kitchen, looking towards sink



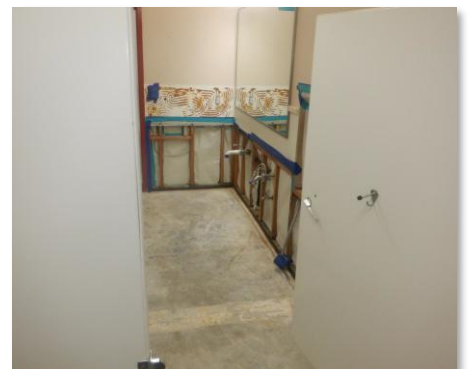
kitchen, looking towards oven



playroom, looking towards
counter and hallway to back door



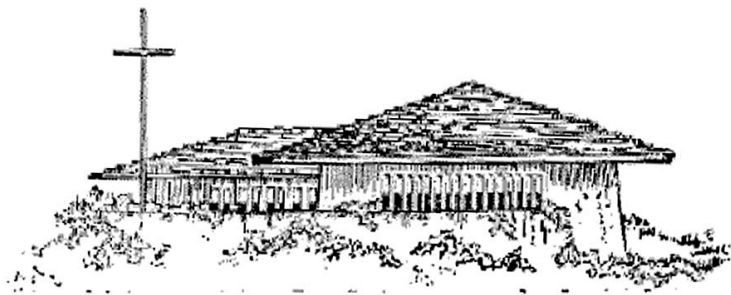
storage room, looking towards
door and wall shared with kitchen



women's restroom

July Financial Report

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Over/Under Budget
<u>INCOME</u>			
Pledge, Plate, Other Giving	96,398.50		
Secret Garden, Building Use	38,693.12		
Investment Income	3,241.26		
TOTAL INCOME	\$138,332.88	\$148,493.38	-\$10,160.50
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Church Program & Office			
Conference Apportionments	16,052.00		
Church Program Funding	1,024.37		
Maintenance, Supplies	444.56		
Office Expenses	2,129.27		
Employee Compensation	29,146.54		
Subtotal, Church Program & Office Expenses	\$48,796.74	\$50,111.81	\$1,315.07
Church Campus			
Custodial	1,870.00		
Utilities	15,111.53		
Insurance	8,352.73		
Taxes	1,713.90		
Maintenance, Improvements	6,950.77		
Subtotal, Church Campus Expenses	\$33,998.93	\$32,531.31	-\$1,467.62
Pastoral Ministry & Parsonage			
Salary	35,191.38		
Housing & Utilities	2,625.00		
Travel, Annual Conference, Education, Supplies	3,925.06		
Health Insurance	7,898.24		
Pastor's Pension	6,665.62		
Parsonage Mortgage, Insurance, Taxes, Maintenance	15,285.96		
Subtotal, Pastoral Ministry & Parsonage Expenses	\$71,591.26	\$71,735.44	\$144.18
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$154,386.93	\$154,378.56	-\$8.37
NET INCOME-EXPENSES	-\$16,054.05	-\$5,885.18	-\$10,168.87



Aptos Community United Methodist Church

"The Church Worth Finding"

221 Thunderbird Drive, Aptos, CA 95003

831.688.2210

www.aptosumc.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Worship at 10 AM in person

and livestreamed on  **YouTube**

YouTube channel: @aptosumc

**Deadline for
October Tide**

Friday, September 18

The Tide is published monthly by Aptos United Methodist Church.

Aptos UMC is an inclusive community that welcomes and encourages full participation of all persons, regardless of race, culture, age, economic circumstance, sexual orientation, gender identity, or physical/mental abilities.

The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 9 AM to 2:30 PM.

Church Staff

Gabe House

Pastor

gabriel.house@cnumc.org

831.535.2912 (cell)

Sandi Thomas

Office Manager

office@aptosumc.org

831.688.2210

Daniel Goldsmith

Music Director

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831.334.0900